REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 5, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 22-42 are currently pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 22-28 and 36-42. Claims 29-35 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.SC. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejected claims 29-30 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Szczepanek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,668) ("Szczepanek"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 29, upon which claims 30-35 are dependent, recites a network device, having default values that are flexibly configurable. The network device includes a microprocessor interface, and a memory interface. The network device further includes a register file containing the default values for the network device. The memory interface is configured to receive configuration instructions. The network device is configured to interpret the received configuration instructions such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file. The network device is configurable to set default values based on data received through either the microprocessor interface and the memory interface.

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As will be discussed below, Szczepanek fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Szczepanek generally discloses a plurality of network switching systems, each system including a switch device supporting multiple local ports. The switch device includes an EEPROM interface which provides communication capability with an external electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM). On a reset of power up, the switch device access the configuration information contained in the external EEPROM via interface, and loads this configuration information into memory-mapped registers in its local memory. (See Szczepanek at col. 7, line 65 – col. 8, line 6).

Applicants respectfully submit that Szczepanek fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of the present claims. For example, Szczepanek fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, at least, *"wherein the network device is configured to interpret the received configuration instructions such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file,"* as recited in independent claim 29.

As described above, the switch 20 of Szczepanek access the configuration information contained in the external EEPROM via interface 54, and loads this configuration information into memory-mapped registers in local memory 45. (See Szczepanek at col. 8, lines 3-6). Thus, the cited portion of Szczepanek merely discloses that the switch accesses configuration information and loads it into local memory 45. The cited portion of Szczepanek fails to disclose, or suggest, interpteting the received

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configuration instructions such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file, as recited in independent claim 29.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Szczepanek fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of independent claim 29. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 30 and 34-35 depend upon independent claim 29. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30 and 34-35 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claim 29, and for the specific elements recited therein.
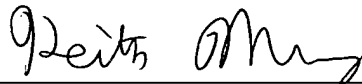
Allowable Subject Mater

The Office Action indicated that claims 31-33 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 31-33 depend upon independent 29. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-33 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claim 29, and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 31-33 be allowed.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art references fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 29-35 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

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If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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